

# The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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## Voice of America Disturbs Kremlin

U. S. State Department Tries to Combat Claims Made by Soviet Union

THE lifting of the Berlin blockade was regarded by many observers as a sign of improving relations between the United States and Russia. At least one phase of the struggle between these two nations, however, became more intense as a result of the Berlin developments. In the "war of words," or "battle of the air waves," the ending of the blockade became a bitterly disputed issue.

Failure of the blockade to drive our occupation forces out of Berlin was regarded by western observers as a serious blow against Soviet prestige. Britain and America sought to pass this view along in radio broadcasts to the Russian citizens. Soviet leaders contended that our explanation of the affair was inaccurate, and they took steps to prevent their people from receiving western views.

From a large number of radio transmitters they broadcast loud noises, thus "jamming" the wave-lengths used by British and American stations. But in spite of these efforts, it is believed that some western broadcasts have continued to reach radio listeners in the Soviet Union.

This international radio duel is causing a controversy within our own country. Although it is generally agreed that our verbal attacks upon Russia are mild in comparison with those which she makes upon us, many Americans feel that our government should not make criticisms of the So-

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AREAS SUCH AS THIS illustrate one part of the German problem—the need to repair damage left by the war

## Tackling the German Problem

Present Conference of Big Four Offers Some Hope for Finding Solution But Work Goes Ahead on Plans for Establishing a West German State

RAPID progress is being made on the plans for a West German republic. Earlier this month German political leaders put the finishing touches on the constitution for the proposed new state. If plans proceed according to schedule, the West German republic will come into existence this summer. The seat of the government will be the Rhineland city of Bonn.

Meanwhile, some 250 miles west of Bonn, the Council of Foreign Ministers is starting its second week of discussions on the German problem. The decisions reached by U. S. Secretary of State Acheson and Foreign Ministers Bevin of Great Britain, Schuman of France, and Vishinsky of Russia in the Paris talks may have

a vital effect on the proposed new state and, indeed, on all of Germany.

In understanding the events that are now taking place both in Germany and at the Paris conference of the Big Four, it is necessary to know what factors are involved and how the German problem has developed. The remainder of this article—presented in question-and-answer form—will be devoted primarily to the postwar background of the German situation.

What is meant by the "German problem"?

When the war in Europe ended in May 1945, the German nation was shattered. Military destruction was widespread, and the machinery of government had broken down. Trade

and industry had virtually come to a complete standstill.

It became necessary, then, to repair the war damage, to produce food, to re-open mines and factories, and to set up a democratic form of government. At the same time, steps had to be taken to guard against a return of Hitlerism and military power. All the difficulties in reaching these goals make up the "German problem."

Why hasn't the problem been solved before?

Principally because the western powers and Russia have been in almost complete disagreement on every phase of the problem. Previous conferences of the Council of Foreign Ministers on this matter have ended in hopeless stalemates.

Occasional disagreements have cropped up during the past four years between the United States, Great Britain, and France. These have been "ironed out" satisfactorily. But the differences between the western powers and the Soviet Union have been more deep-seated, and—up to this time—have defied solution.

How has Germany been governed since the end of the war?

Soon after the European conflict ended, Germany was divided into four military occupation zones. The Russians govern the eastern part of Germany, while the Americans, British, and French have their zones in the western part of the country. Berlin, the former Reich capital, is in the Russian area, but is occupied jointly by the four powers.

The western powers cooperate closely in running their zones. For all practical purposes, the British and American zones are operated as one. Since the war, military authorities have had the main responsibility of administering the various zones, but

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## Preparing for Tomorrow

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

ONE is likely to succeed in the business world only in case he acquires more capital from time to time than he needs to use in his current operations. He puts this capital by; allows it to accumulate, then as opportunities appear he puts it to use. He frequently finds occasion to feed this accumulated capital into his business. By this process alone is he able to carry on extensive, complicated, and expanding operations.

The accumulation of capital is also an insurance against later insecurity. Even though one may never plan to conduct business enterprises he must prepare to continue his existence. He must realize that the time may come when he can no longer produce. Then he will be fortunate if he has an accumulation of wealth to fall back upon. That is why it is considered so desirable for one to

produce a surplus while the going is good, laying up capital for future opportunities and for rainy days.

It is not so generally realized that it is equally desirable for one to lay up intellectual capital. If one is to succeed he should spend years in the study of a wide range of subjects. That is what he does during his student days. Then he continues to study and to learn. He reads, reflects upon, and discusses many matters which do not concern his daily work. But he is accumulating a reserve of information and of ideas.

All the while occasions are coming along which call for information and for skill one cannot acquire in a hurry. These are the times when one falls back upon the reserve he has built up. The businessman making a decision which calls for a broad understanding of economic conditions, the lawyer handling a complicated case, the physician dealing with a critical situation, all these would be utterly helpless if they had not on

hand a store of knowledge and technique which has been developed through the years.

Even though one may not be going into business or the professions, he needs a store of intellectual capital. He needs it in order to act intelligently as a citizen. No man can become sufficiently familiar with the problems his ballot deals with if he waits to study the issues involved until election time approaches. The casting of a ballot is a moment of crisis, and the typical voter meets the crisis effectively only if he is able to make his decision in the light of a knowledge and understanding which has been in preparation for months or years.

And so it is with the little crises with which one's private life is filled. One needs a reserve of experience upon which he may draw. If a person is to be happy and successful, he should add constantly to his reserve of capital, intellectual as well as material.



# Germany

(Concluded from page 1)

their role will become less important in the future. General Lucius Clay, U. S. military governor in Germany, has already left the U. S. zone, and a civilian administrator, John J. McCloy, will take over soon.

*How do the three western zones compare in size, population, and resources with Russian-occupied Germany?*

The Soviet zone is about as big as Tennessee and has a population of about 17 million people. It is chiefly agricultural, and before the war it produced about a third of all Germany's food. The section contains very little mineral wealth, and there is not much manufacturing.

The combined western zones are more than twice as large as the Soviet area. They have a population of about 44 million people. In the years before the war, they produced about 45 per cent of Germany's food supply, but the population is so dense that there never has been enough food to go around. The people need food from eastern Germany or from other countries.

In the western zones the great manufacturing industries are to be found. Before the war, 80 per cent of Germany's coal came from this territory, and 86 per cent of her steel. The great industrial area known as the Ruhr is located in the British zone.

*How has economic recovery come along in Germany since the end of the war?*

Recovery appears to have lagged in the Russian zone as compared to the western part of Germany. When the Soviet Union clamped a blockade on Berlin last June, stopping all traffic from the west into our sections of the former German capital, the Americans, British, and French retaliated with a counterblockade. They forbade the sending of goods from the western zones into eastern Germany.

Both blockades were, of course, lifted earlier this month as a necessary preliminary to the Paris conference, but reports indicate that the counterblockade seriously delayed recovery in the Russian-occupied areas. Meanwhile, the Berlin blockade was



Still on the rocks

TWO VIEWS—ONE PESSIMISTIC AND THE OTHER OPTIMISTIC—OF THE SITUATION IN GERMANY

made largely ineffective by the airlift.

In the western zones, a marked improvement in the economic situation has been observed in the past year or two. Production has increased a good deal in the Ruhr. While output is still far below the prewar industrial level, the western zones are unquestionably much better off than they were at the end of 1947. The European Recovery Program has helped substantially in bringing about this improvement.

*Have the western powers and the Soviet Union been able to agree on anything concerning Germany?*

Their statements have indicated that they agree on these general aims: that the German people should live in a unified state with all traces of nazism removed and without the means to wage war. They also agree that Germany should have a "democratic" government—but Russia's idea of "democracy" is entirely different from that of the western powers.

*What phases of the German problem have been the source of greatest disagreement between the western powers and Russia?*

In the past there has been persistent disagreement on these matters: the

unification of Germany, the withdrawal of occupation troops, the drawing-up of a peace treaty, control of the Ruhr, reparations, and occupation currency. These are the major matters which will have to be threshed out if the Paris conference is to succeed.

*What is the unification issue?*

In past discussions, the United States, Great Britain, and France have favored a federal type of government for Germany with the individual states retaining a large measure of control over their own affairs. The Soviet Union has maintained in the past that Germany must have a strong central government with its capital at Berlin.

Concerning this issue and others that we shall mention, both Russia and the western powers may, during the course of the present Big Four meeting, show that they have changed their viewpoints on certain matters. However, in the absence of information to this effect, we shall describe the issues as they have existed prior to the Paris conference.

*What is the disagreement over occupation troops?*

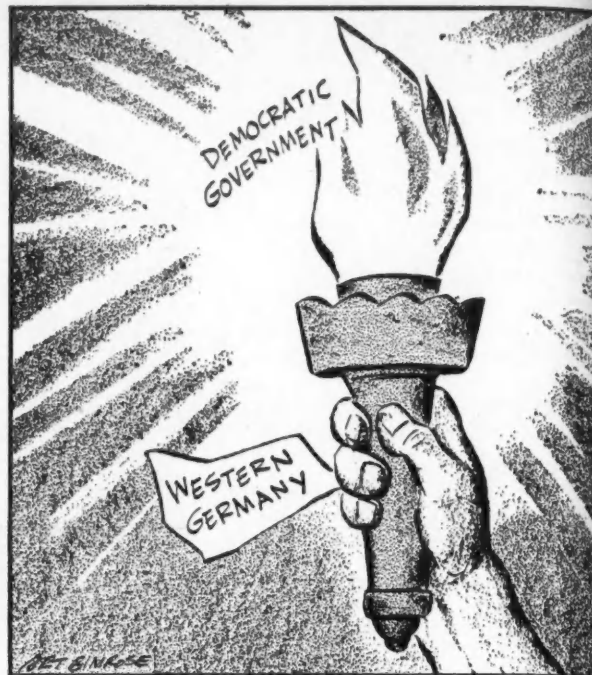
The western powers have taken the stand that troops must not be completely withdrawn from Germany until a responsible, democratic government is ready to take over the rule of the country. About a year ago the Soviet Union called for the speedy withdrawal of all occupation troops from Germany.

*How about a peace treaty for Germany?*

This has been another source of serious disagreement. The western countries have taken the view that a careful groundwork must be laid before a peace treaty can be signed. Russia has called for an immediate treaty.

*Why is control of the Ruhr a cause for disagreement?*

The Ruhr—one of the most concentrated industrial areas in the world—plays a major part in the economy of Europe. Many of its manufactured products normally flow into eastern Germany and into the Communist-dominated nations of eastern Europe.



In darkest Europe

However, the Ruhr is entirely in the British zone, and the western powers say that Russia should have no voice in its control. The Soviet Union maintains that it should be given a part in the administration of this vital industrial region.

*What are the reasons behind the basic disagreements we have mentioned?*

The stand of the western powers is caused principally by their desire to keep the Communists from seizing control of all Germany and to keep Germany from again becoming a major military power.

For example, the western powers want a federal type of government because they feel that it would be harder for the Communists to seize control over a number of fairly strong state governments than it would be for them to overthrow a centralized government in Berlin. It is also felt that divided political authority in Germany would help to keep another Hitler from militarizing the nation and leading it into war. The western powers are determined that a careful groundwork should be laid for a democratic government before occupation troops are withdrawn or a peace treaty is formulated.

On the other hand, it is believed that Russia's stands on these issues are caused principally by the belief that her policies will allow her to gain political control of all Germany. It is pointed out, for example, that the withdrawal of occupation troops, the establishment of a strong, central government, and the immediate signing of a peace treaty might all create conditions favorable for such a Communist seizure of power as took place in Czechoslovakia.

*Is the Soviet Union making a change in policy?*

This possibility has been advanced by a number of observers. For example, Walter Lippmann, the well-known columnist, suggests that since Russia has suffered setbacks in Europe, she may have decided to withdraw her attention from that continent and to concentrate on Asia where communism has been gaining ground.

Mr. Lippmann also is of the opinion that Stalin may eventually seek an alliance with Germany similar to the one which was made in 1939.



USE OF THE AUTOBAHN—Germany's great east-west highway—was disputed as the Berlin blockade was lifted



## Science News

**A** NEW wood-chipping machine can turn waste treetops and the branches left from logging or pruning into economical wood-chips for use as ground covering or in dairy barns and poultry houses. As a ground covering the chips enrich the soil, and help to check erosion and damage from wind.

★ ★ ★

Some astronomers believe that space between the stars may be filled with tiny bits of highly magnetic iron. The fact that light from stars in the Milky Way is always pulled more in one direction than in another seems to indicate the presence of such magnetic needles. If further research shows that these magnetic bits of iron are in the skies, scientists hope the discovery will help them to examine more thoroughly the fields between the stars.

★ ★ ★

Automobile tires good for about 75,000 miles, made from a new synthetic known as "cold rubber," are expected to be on the market before long, according to a petroleum company. The rubber is of good quality and tires made from it will cost less than those made of the natural product.

★ ★ ★

Near Salerno, Florida, sharks are caught for their valuable liver oil. The oil is used in vitamin pills and to enrich poultry and cattle feeds. The "hammerhead" shark yields oil richest in vitamins. The sharks' fins are also a source of revenue, as many restaurants buy them for decorations.

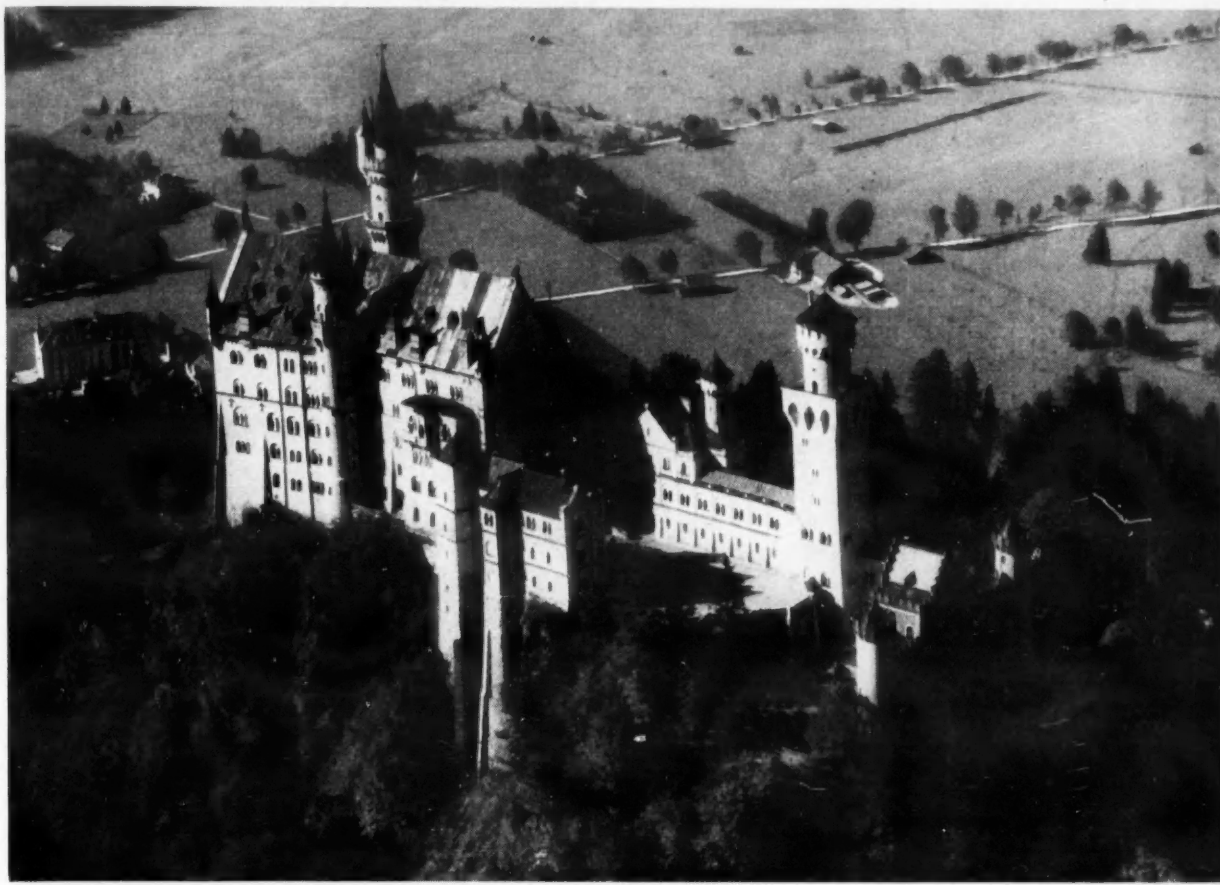
★ ★ ★

Pleasure boats may soon have hulls constructed of Foamglas—a glass fiber material filled with tiny bubbles that add buoyancy and lightness to a boat. A craft built with glass fiber material is leak-proof, corrosion-proof, will not be attacked by pests—and it will not break easily.

★ ★ ★

The big "glass eye" of the 200-inch telescope at Mt. Palomar is still not in perfect condition. A tiny bit of glass—only a fraction of an inch—around the edge of the mirror must be ground off before the gigantic telescope can give its best performance. Officials say that the mirror will be removed from its supporting framework and polished right there on Palomar Mountain. Six months may be required to complete the job.

—By DOROTHY ADAMS.



BEFORE BAVARIA went into the federation of states which became Germany, its royal family lived in this castle

## Historical Backgrounds - - The Old German States

**O**NE of the chief questions before the Council of Foreign Ministers, currently meeting in Paris, is "What form of government should Germany have?" Should there be a strong central government, as Russia wants? Or should there be a federal government, with each state having considerable independence in arranging its own affairs? This is the kind of set-up Great Britain, France, and the United States would like to see established. Until the four occupying powers reach an agreement, Germany will continue to be split between Russia on the east and the democracies on the west.

The German people, following the current debate on their country's future, are reminded that it has not been so long since Germany first became a unified nation. Some three centuries ago such countries as France, England, Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal existed in much their present form. But until fairly recent times, the area we now call Germany was made up of a large number of relatively independent states. Often at

each other's throats, these states were only loosely held together by various confederations and empires.

For a thousand years—from the time of Charlemagne until the time of Napoleon—the German states were a large and influential part of the Holy Roman Empire. The princes of the more powerful states named the "ruler" of this empire; and from the 15th century on, they always chose the king of Austria to be the "emperor." For a long time, this appeared to give Austria a great deal of prestige and influence.

Actually, however, the emperors had great trouble trying to establish real power outside their own country. Attempts made by various of the Hapsburgs to bring the hundreds of other German states fully under their rule failed. Finally, at the end of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), the Treaty of Westphalia broke Austria's authority almost completely, and thereafter the German princes governed their states as they pleased.

The one German state which increased in power and possessions during the Thirty Years' War was Brandenburg, whose rulers were the Hohenzollerns. Under several astute rulers, the Brandenburg territories in the north were enlarged and consolidated into the Kingdom of Prussia. Neighboring German states began to look to this new kingdom for protection, while the southern areas favored Austrian leadership. German history thereafter became the story of the conflict between the two powers—Prussia and Austria.

Prussia's greatest gains were made from 1740 to 1796, under Frederick the Great. Not only did Frederick strengthen the nation internally, he also built the best army in Europe, fought two long wars, and enlarged Prussia by taking Silesia from Austria and West Prussia from Poland.

A decade after Frederick's death, Napoleon began his attempt to weld

all Europe into a single empire. He succeeded in defeating Austria and abolishing the Holy Roman Empire. He also brought western Germany into a Rhine Confederation, and conquered Prussia. But more than that, he stirred up a hornets' nest by hastening the day of German unification. The German people stood as one in their opposition toward France, and they began to think and feel as a unit.

After Napoleon's downfall, the Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) organized the 38 remaining German states into the German Confederation. This confederation lasted with only slight interruption for a half century, and Austria and Prussia were its dominant states.

When Otto von Bismarck became prime minister of Prussia in 1862, he believed that Prussia could be made a great state through which Germany might at last be unified. Realizing that Austria was a dangerous rival which should be excluded from the nation of his dreams, he built up the Prussian army. With it he finally defeated Austria. This left Bismarck free to annex a great portion of northern Germany. (For its part, Austria then became a part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.)

Four sizable south German states still remained outside the confederation, and Bismarck took a roundabout way of bringing them into line. First, he goaded the French into declaring war on Prussia. Then he persuaded the south German states that they, as well as Prussia, were menaced by France. Thus frightened, the states willingly joined the German Confederation.

The united German states defeated the French and forced them to give up Alsace and part of Lorraine. Germany was then united. As the German Empire, it remained the most powerful state on the continent of Europe from 1871 until its defeat in World War I.



IT'LL LAND ON A TENNIS COURT! This new plane, designed by a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is quiet in flight and can fly at a minimum speed of 27 miles per hour with safety. It is called a helioplane because it has landing and take-off characteristics of the helicopter.



# The Story of the Week

## Japanese Policy

The Philippine government is opposed to a new policy the United States has adopted in Japan. Until some weeks ago, our government approved the policy of taking mills and factories from Japan and giving them to the countries that suffered from Japanese aggression during the last war.

U. S. officials now say that the removal of Japanese plants will only make Japan more dependent on the United States than it now is and will cost the American taxpayer hundreds of millions of dollars. In consequence, the officials have ordered that all dismantling of Japanese factories stop and that their owners be permitted to keep them intact.

The Philippines are opposed to this action because they fear that Japan

federal aid to education, a public housing program, and an expansion of the social security system. All this would require the appropriation of large sums of money.

Persons who oppose the President's recommendation believe that an increase in taxes would place an unfair burden on private enterprise because there has been a decline in business activity in recent months. They point out that production has gone down and that prices of many articles have dropped.

Mr. Truman's opponents also contend that the President is trying to accomplish too much within a single year. They say there is no need for Congress to pass all the legislation involved in the administration's program until there has been time for adequate study of the proposals.

Mr. Truman and his supporters, on the other hand, feel that the program is needed to help forestall an economic depression and to help raise the standards of living of low-income groups.

## UN Assembly

According to many observers, the UN General Assembly made several far-reaching decisions at its recent meeting, though it postponed action on other important matters.

During its sessions at Lake Success, the Assembly voted to admit into the UN the state of Israel. It also approved a convention, or agreement, under which newspaper correspondents would have the right to travel in foreign countries and report the news as they see it. This agreement will now be put into the form of a treaty, but it will apply only to those nations that sign it. Russia and her satellite nations say they will not sign because the convention does not conform to their concept of press freedom.

The Assembly made two other significant decisions. It rejected a proposal allowing members of the UN to resume full diplomatic relations with Franco-Spain. It also refused to approve a British resolution regarding Italy's former African colonies.

Under this resolution, Great Brit-



CHERBOURG, FRANCE, once the main supply port for Allied forces during the Battle of Normandy, has returned to its peaceful ways. The cranes, left by the Allied armies, now are used by fishermen.

ain, France and Italy would have administered different portions of Libya until 1959, after which the North African nation would have become free and independent. Most of Eritrea would have been given outright to Ethiopia, and Italy would have administered Italian Somaliland. As a result of the Assembly's action, the disposition of the Italian colonies will not be determined until the Assembly's fall session.

The Assembly also postponed action on the Indonesian question. Meanwhile, the Dutch government and the leaders of the Indonesian Republic have agreed to halt the war between them and will now try to come to a settlement on the future of Netherlands East Indies possessions.

## Roosevelt Victory

Political observers have turned their attention to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., who was recently elected to the U. S. House of Representatives. Will he, they ask, prove to be as popular and successful as was his father? And how far does he plan to go in politics?

Roosevelt is taking the House seat left vacant recently by the death of

Representative Sol Bloom, of New York. Despite the fact that the Democratic organization opposed him, the new Congressman declares that he will support President Truman's Fair Deal program.

According to some observers, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. has already shown some of the late President's political boldness and popular appeal. When he failed to win the nomination of the Democratic Party, he obtained the nomination of the Liberal and Four Freedoms Parties. Both of these are small, independent groups in New York City.

Roosevelt conducted a vigorous campaign before the election and then went on to win a clear majority of the votes. Three other candidates were also in the race for the Congressional seat.

Another of the late President's sons, James, has entered the political arena in California, but he has not yet had the test of running for election.

## National Forests

According to the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, more than 27 million persons will visit our national forests this year. During 1948, 24 million people visited the forests, and 21 million had gone to them the year before.

In the opinion of Forest Service officials, more people than formerly are using the facilities of the national forests because they have become increasingly aware of the benefits of outdoor recreation. They also appreciate the fact that a vacation in a national forest is less expensive than one at most other resorts.

The facilities available in the forests include camping and picnic grounds, winter sports areas, hotels, and tracts of wilderness for hiking.

The Forest Service says there are now 4,500 camping and picnic areas in the country, 230 winter sports areas, and 400 camps operated by welfare organizations for people who cannot pay for their vacations.

## President's Plan

The administration may soon submit to Congress a bill designed to carry out President Truman's proposal for making improvements in the



A YOUNG ENGLISH MISS welcomes orange juice that is being sent to her country in concentrated form under the European Recovery Program. The British have had few oranges since the beginning of World War II.

may become militarily strong and once more be a threat to world peace. They also believe that the Allied nations in the Pacific should continue to receive industrial plants from Japan as payment for the destruction caused by the Japanese during World War II.

As for a possible renewal of Japanese military strength, the U. S. says it will take every precaution to see that the former enemy does not use her industries for the production of war goods. American officials point out that they plan to keep a strong occupation force in Japan for some time to come to prevent any reappearance of Japanese militarism.

## Tax Increase

President Truman's request for a tax increase of 4 billion dollars during the year between July 1, 1949, and July 1, 1950, is meeting considerable opposition. The proposal is being attacked by both legislators and businessmen. They argue that higher taxes at this time would have a bad effect on the nation's economic life. They also say that, before taxes are raised, the government should try to reduce expenditures. If this were done, it is argued, there might be no need to obtain additional revenue.

Mr. Truman has asked for an increase in taxation because he wants to carry out a number of projects during the coming year—such projects as a national health insurance plan,



LIKE FATHER LIKE SON. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. (right), like his father, was victorious in his first bid for elective office. The picture of the elder Roosevelt, shown on the left, was taken shortly after he was elected to the New York State Senate, in his first political race, in 1910.



WIDE WORLD



world's under-developed areas. The proposal was first mentioned in Mr. Truman's inaugural address January 20, but up to now it has not been put into legislative form.

Under the measure that may be suggested, Congress would appropriate 30 million dollars during the next year to provide scientific and technical assistance for under-developed nations. Other large countries, such as Great Britain and France, would contribute about 18 million dollars while the countries to be aided would put up a total of 37 million dollars.

If a bill of this kind is adopted by both houses of Congress, Latin America is expected to be the first area to be helped. Scientists and other technical experts would be sent to Latin American countries and assistance would be given on such matters as flood control, road construction and other projects.

Efforts would also be made to improve the health of our neighbors to the south and to expand their educational systems. These steps are considered necessary because industrial and agricultural production cannot be increased if the people of a country have neither good health nor a reasonable level of education.

## President Dutra

Now that Brazilian President Eurico Dutra is back in his own country after a trip to the United States, he may soon be expected to encourage the application of techniques which he witnessed in the Tennessee Valley to hydroelectric projects in Brazil.

The expansion of water power and irrigation facilities are undertakings that are close to the heart of President Dutra. They form a vital part of his five-year development plan which was started about two months ago. Large sections of the South American country are arid. They can benefit greatly through such projects as those recently inspected by Dutra in Tennessee.

The originator of Brazil's development plan was born 64 years ago in a part of that country which has many similarities to our own western plains. He grew up on the cattle range where he learned to be an expert horseman. After the equivalent of a high school



**FRED ROBBINS** of Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, struck out 69 men in his first 51 innings on the mound this season. Major league scouts are often in the stands when he pitches for his college team.



**BACKING THE BOND DRIVE.** Representatives John W. Byrnes of Wisconsin, Sterling Cole of New York, Charles Eaton of New Jersey, Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts, and James C. Auchincloss of New Jersey are shown as the Savings Bonds Opportunity Drive opened.

education, he enlisted in the Brazilian army and set out on a military career.

In 1930 Dutra was a member of the group which put Getulio Vargas into the presidency, and about the same time he achieved the rank of general. From 1936 to 1945 he served as Minister of War in the Vargas cabinet.

During World War II Dutra played a major part in bringing about the arrangements by which his country cooperated with the United States in establishing airfields and military installations in Brazil.

In December 1945 Dutra was elected president for a six-year term. Under his leadership, Brazil is making substantial progress in becoming a major power of the Western Hemisphere.

## Soviet Defeat

Western observers are closely following developments in the Soviet zone of Germany, where elections to a so-called People's Congress were recently held. The electorate could vote only for candidates supported by the Communists. Nonetheless, fully one-third cast their ballots against the nominees who stood for election.

In the opinion of most western commentators, the results of the voting prove that the Russians have the support of very few Germans in their occupation zone. It is pointed out that if the Soviet officials publicly admit that one-third voted against their candidates, the actual number must have been much greater.

The election was held to prove that Russia's policies regarding Germany were backed by virtually all the people of the eastern zone. It was also held to name delegates to a conference that would draw up a constitution for the entire German nation.

If such a document is outlined while the Council of Foreign Ministers is in session in Paris, it will probably be used by the Russians as a means of counteracting the effect of measures being adopted in western Germany. As these words are written, it is not yet certain whether the People's Congress can be convened in such

a short time—or, if it is convened, whether it can complete a draft of a proposed constitution before the Council meeting is adjourned.

## To Improve Education

A nation-wide organization has been set up to help improve our educational system. Such authorities as Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University, say that the organization can be of great value to our schools because it will draw public attention to the shortage of teachers, the need for new buildings, and to other educational problems.

The new group is called the National Citizens Commission for the Public Schools. Its president is Roy E. Larsen, an outstanding magazine publisher. Other members of the commission are noted leaders in journalism, law, industry and labor.

In addition to publicizing the plight of the nation's schools, the commission will be a clearing-house for information on how to meet educational problems. Through this clearing-house, school boards and other interested groups can learn how other cities and towns have solved their problems.

Foreign students from almost every section of the world live at International House in New York City. Between one-third and one-half of them come from the United States but the rest are citizens of such countries as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Australia, Canada, and Brazil. These students from the far corners of the world are proving that different races and nationalities can live together in peace and friendship.

International House was established by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in 1924 after it was discovered that there was no meeting place in the metropolitan area for students of differing races, nationalities, and creeds. There are three other International Houses, in addition to the one in New York. They are located in Chicago, Berkeley, California, and Paris. They too were built with funds contributed by Rockefeller.

## Newsmakers

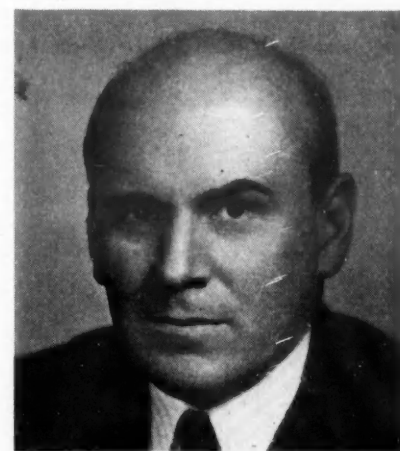
**JOHN J. McCLOY**, former head of the World Bank, will soon take up his duties as U. S. High Commissioner for Germany. He is taking the place of General Lucius Clay as top U. S. official in that country. McCloy's recent appointment by President Truman marks the transfer of American authority in Germany from military to civilian hands.

The man who will take over one of the most complicated jobs in our foreign service was born in Philadelphia 54 years ago. After graduating with honors from Amherst College, he entered Harvard Law School, but his studies were interrupted by World War I. He served in France as a field artillery captain, and later was stationed with occupation troops in the Rhineland.

Returning to the United States, McCloy completed his course at Harvard, and for the next two decades practiced corporation law with New York firms. He made frequent business trips to Europe.

In 1940 McCloy entered government service. A few months later he became Assistant Secretary of War, a post which he held throughout World War II. In this capacity he took on special tasks in North Africa, Europe, and the Pacific, and attended the San Francisco Conference where the United Nations was organized. He played a prominent part in shaping policies for the military occupation of Germany.

Resigning his post after the war, McCloy once again took up the private practice of law. Early in 1947 he became head of the World Bank. In this position he approved loans to many war-ravaged nations and to others with undeveloped resources.



**John J. McCloy**

Observers agree that Mr. McCloy's varied experience gives him unique qualifications for his new post. As head of the World Bank, he has worked closely with officials directing the European Recovery Program, and as a former War Department official, he has a keen knowledge of occupation problems.

A brown-eyed, stocky man, McCloy has a reputation for calmness under trying conditions. His liking for tennis dates back to the time when he captained a championship tennis team at Amherst. He often enjoys playing after a busy day.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.



# How America's Story Is Being Told Abroad

(Concluded from page 1)

viet government in broadcasts to the Russian people. Such tactics, it is maintained, will serve only to anger Soviet leaders, and will make it increasingly difficult for us to get along with them.

Other observers contend that Russia seeks to spread her viewpoints to the United States and all parts of the world, and that we are thoroughly justified in doing likewise.

America's attempt to tell its story to the Russian citizens by radio is just one part of a big, world-wide information program which is being carried on by our government, through the U. S. State Department. Our nation sends out broadcasts in Russian and in numerous other foreign languages. Movies, photos, and the printed word are also used to tell people of other lands about the American way of life.

Through these channels, the State Department seeks to let the world know that we are not the selfish, militaristic nation which Russia accuses us of being.

It costs the United States a great deal to send information abroad. President Truman wants to use 36 million dollars for this purpose during the year ending in June 1950. Although that is a large amount of money, it is considerably smaller than the sum Russia spends annually to spread her views in foreign countries.

## Best-known Enterprise

Best known among U. S. enterprises for telling America's story abroad is undoubtedly the radio program, the Voice of America. Using nearly 40 powerful transmitters in this country, plus additional ones in other lands, our government sends daily broadcasts in about 20 languages. Besides, many programs are put on records and made available to the operators of foreign radio stations.

Each broadcast is especially designed to attract listeners in the area for which it is intended. Those sent to other nations of this hemisphere, for instance, devote a great deal of attention to Pan American news. Special care is given to the various European and Far Eastern areas which receive our broadcasts. In general, Voice of America programs include musical selections, news reports, and various features which help foreigners to learn what our country is like and how Americans live.

For instance, there are programs of questions and answers about the United States, and descriptions of American stores, schools, and industries. In a typical broadcast to the Soviet Union, a Russian-speaking automobile worker told about his job, his home, and his car.

In broadcasting the news, Voice of America officials maintain that they give straight, truthful reports of happenings in the United States and abroad. News presentations play an especially large part in programs designed for Communist-dominated countries, whose governments do not permit local newspapers and radio stations to give unbiased accounts of world events. Reports on progress that is being made under the European Recovery Program receive a great deal of attention in broadcasts

to both eastern and western Europe.

The Voice of America keeps foreign listeners up-to-date on happenings within the United States. During the 1948 Presidential campaign, its audiences abroad heard about the public opinion polls which were predicting President Truman's defeat. The fact that an agency within Mr. Truman's own administration would broadcast this news must have astonished and impressed many listeners in dictator-controlled countries.



RECORDING ENGINEERS at work on discs that will carry the Voice of America to other countries

It is difficult to find out how large an audience the Voice of America has—particularly in the nations behind Russia's "Iron Curtain." We know, however, that the programs have been going through to some extent. U. S. officials estimated, early this year, that the broadcasts were being heard daily by about a million people in Poland, and by large numbers in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and even Russia.

When Mrs. Oksana Kosenkina jumped from a third-story window to escape from Russia's New York Consulate last summer, our government promptly described the incident over the Voice of America. The Soviet government told its people an inaccurate version of the story; but America's account spread among the people of Moscow about as rapidly as did the report which was printed and broadcast by Russia.

Nearly 300 million people live in the areas which receive Voice of America radio programs, and careful estimates indicate that the actual audience numbers many millions. And there is no guesswork about the fact that our government receives more than 15,000 pieces of "fan mail" every month from interested listeners in foreign lands. Many of the writers express their thanks for the programs, comment on various features, and ask for additional information.

Early this year a U. S. official gave the following report on the popularity of American libraries in countries under Soviet control: "In spite of the fact that attendance in our libraries is frowned upon and discouraged, often by police intimidation, yet large numbers still risk the loss of their jobs, reprisals of all sorts, and even imprisonment to read American books and magazines."

In Prague, Czechoslovakia, Communist party members stand outside the library and try to persuade readers to stay away. But the library and the photo exhibit in its windows draw sizable crowds.

For the people of the Soviet Union, our State Department publishes a well-illustrated magazine called *Amerika*. Fifty thousand copies a month are sent into Russia, by permission of the Soviet government. This magazine, which tells about life in the United States, is extremely popular among the Russian people. Copies generally are passed from person to person until they become worn and tattered.

## Releases to Newspapers

In many parts of the world, United States information offices distribute press releases to newspapers. The material contained in these bulletins reaches large numbers of people through local publications. Motion pictures and photo exhibits are provided for interested groups.

Here are some of the documentary films which our government has distributed abroad: "Western Stock Buyer," telling about the American livestock industry; "The Doctor," showing a community physician at work; "Tuesday in November," concerning political campaigns and elections; "County Government," picturing a local government at work; and "Steel Town," showing U. S. steelworkers in the factory and at home.

Films and photographs provide an especially important way of telling America's story in areas, such as the Far East, where there are large numbers of people who cannot read. The foreigners' intense interest in these pictures is sometimes demonstrated in surprising ways.

For example, some American officials had finished showing a movie in a Chinese village, and were returning to their headquarters, when they were kidnapped. Their captors took them some distance away and released them only after they had shown the entire lot of movies which they had with them that day.

Information films about the United States have been circulating even in countries behind the Iron Curtain. The governments of those nations, however, are making it more and more difficult for the American documentary movies to be shown.

The State Department's efforts to inform other countries about the United States are occasionally criticized. Some observers regard the Voice of America and its companion enterprises as not particularly effective, and as a waste of money. In general, though, the various information projects have won the approval of a majority of the American people, and have been highly popular with their audiences abroad.



# Study Guide

## Voice of America

1. Why is information about the United States being sent to countries abroad?
2. Describe the type of programs broadcast over the Voice of America.
3. What policy, followed by the Voice of America during the 1948 Presidential campaign, undoubtedly made a big impression on listeners in dictator-controlled countries?
4. What facts indicate that the U. S. broadcasts have a large and interested audience abroad?
5. Describe some of the motion pictures which our government distributes in other countries.
6. Name additional means by which America tells its story to foreigners.
7. What U. S. government agency handles the Voice of America and similar information projects?
8. What are two points of view regarding the success of the Voice of America?

### Discussion

1. Do you feel that it is wise for our government, in broadcasts to the Russian people, to criticize Soviet leaders? Why or why not?
2. If an event reflects unfavorably upon the United States, do you or do you not think it should be mentioned over the Voice of America? Give reasons for your answer.

## Germany

1. According to present plans, when will the West German Republic come into existence?
2. Why has no solution been found to the German problem even though the war in Europe has been over for more than four years?
3. Compare the resources of the Soviet zone with those of the western zones.
4. Why has economic recovery come along better in the western areas than it has in the Russian zone?
5. What are the matters on which the Soviet Union and the western powers have persistently disagreed in past discussions of the German problem?
6. Why is it thought that Russia wants a centralized government for Germany? Why do the western powers oppose it?
7. What opinion has Columnist Walter Lippmann put forth concerning Russian policy?

### Discussion

1. In the light of recent events, do you think there is any hope that the western nations and the Soviet Union can solve their differences over Germany? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What policy do you think the United States should follow in Germany? Why?

## Miscellaneous

1. What change in U. S. policy does the Philippine Republic oppose? What are the grounds for the opposition?
2. Why does President Truman recommend tax increases, and why do some legislators and business leaders oppose such increases?
3. Describe the recent Soviet "defeat" in eastern Germany.
4. What project is President Dutra of Brazil sponsoring in his country?
5. Was the German nation as constituted before World War II young or old in comparison with such countries as France, Portugal, and Switzerland?
6. Of what importance was Bermuda during the recent war?
7. Who is John J. McCloy?
8. List some of the decisions made by the UN General Assembly at its recent meeting.

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FOR MANY YEARS automobiles were not allowed on the island of Bermuda

# Tourists' Paradise

Bermuda, with a Balmy Climate and Beautiful Scenery, Is a Haven for Visitors from Many Countries

SINCE the end of World War II, Bermuda has been rapidly rebuilding its principal industry—the tourist trade. During the conflict there were practically no visitors to the British colony. Now, the number of vacationists is so great that most of Bermuda's hotels are continuously filled. By the end of 1949 a total of 60,000 persons is expected to have visited the island, compared with approximately 40,000 last year.

The tourist trade has been Bermuda's biggest source of income for many years. The colony obtains a great deal of revenue from the sale of lily bulbs, onions and potatoes, but it receives a much larger amount of money from the operation of hotels, restaurants, recreation centers, and stores which cater to visitors.

The greatest number of people visiting Bermuda comes from the United States, though many are from Great Britain, Canada, and other countries. A large percentage make the trip by plane, but many also go by ship. In fact, the sea cruise to Bermuda is becoming popular again with vacationists because it is leisurely.

Though Bermuda is noted chiefly as a vacationist's paradise, it is also the site of numerous international conferences. In the last few years, meetings have been held in Hamilton, Bermuda's capital, to discuss such questions as world-wide radio and cable communications and international civil aviation.

The colony is also a stop-over point

for planes that fly to Europe via the Azores, and it is the site of a little-known but important weather project operated by the United States Air Force. A large number of B-29 airplanes are attached to this project. Their primary function is to look for hurricanes while they are still hundreds of miles out in the Atlantic.

They relay what is learned concerning the hurricanes to the home base on Bermuda Island. The information is then sent to communities along the eastern seaboard of the United States. The latter thus have news about severe storms before they actually strike.

Although World War II ended in 1945, American armed forces still maintain some military bases in Bermuda. These were built during the early part of the war in accordance with an agreement with Great Britain. Under the terms of the pact, we gave the British 50 destroyers and in return obtained a 99-year lease of air and naval bases in Bermuda and in other nearby British possessions. Most of the installations erected under the lease have been closed since the war, but we still operate in Bermuda one of the world's largest airfields, Kindley Field, and a fairly large base for the U. S. Navy.

During the recent conflict, Bermuda was of great importance to both the United States and Great Britain. We used our naval installations there as refueling and repair stations for part of our Atlantic fleet, and our airfields served as bases for several groups of aircraft. These aircraft played a vital part in combating the German submarines that were plying the waters off our shores.

The British used Bermuda as a naval station and as a censorship center. Neutral vessels en route to Europe that put in at Bermuda were required to permit their cargoes to be examined. Any goods destined for Germany or Italy, or for countries controlled by these two, were confiscated.

Persons at the censorship center read all mail being carried by ship to and from enemy territory. Letters that might have been of military or political value to the Axis were kept by the British and destroyed. At the beginning of the war, the number of persons involved in censoring mail was quite small, but by 1945 it had reached 1,000.



BERMUDA is southeast of the North Carolina coast

Ever since 1684, Bermuda has been a British colony. It was first discovered by a Spaniard, but British colonists landed there in 1612 and claimed the islands for Great Britain.

The islands are administered by an elected legislative assembly and by a governor appointed by the authorities in London. There are also two appointive advisory councils, but these are losing much of their power to the colony's legislature.

The colony of Bermuda actually embraces a group of 360 islands, about 580 miles southeast of the coast of North Carolina. Only 16 of these islands are inhabited. The name *Bermuda* is used both for the entire island group and for the largest of the islands.

Bermuda's balmy climate is one of the chief reasons for its attraction as a year-round vacation resort. The temperature seldom falls below 45 degrees Fahrenheit, and rarely goes above 85 degrees.

The land area of the archipelago (or group of islands) is a little more than 19 square miles, or only about as large as that of Providence, Rhode Island. The number of permanent residents is about 35,000, of whom 4,000 live in Hamilton, the capital, and 3,000 in the town of Saint George. Two-thirds of the population are Negro.

—By DAVID BEILES.

## SMILES

"Oh, I say, is that a dray horse you have there?"  
"No, it's a brown horse, and stop that baby talk."

★ ★ ★

"Is my son getting well grounded in languages?"  
"I would put it even stronger than that," replied the teacher. "I may say that he is actually stranded on them."



WALKER IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

"I feel lucky that I got any grades at all"

"Mom," said the newspaperman's son, "I know why a writer calls himself 'we.'"

"Why?"  
"So the man who doesn't like the article will think that there are too many for him to lick."

★ ★ ★

What possible chance would a dictator have in a country in which spectators demand the life of a baseball umpire for making just one bad decision?

★ ★ ★

"You ask high wages for a young man without experience."  
"Yes, sir, but it's much harder work when you don't know anything about it."

★ ★ ★

"I bought a new thesaurus this morning."  
"What are you trying to do, kid me? Those animals have been extinct for a million years."

★ ★ ★

A tourist, after seeing many native peasants riding on burros while their wives walked along behind, finally stopped one and asked him the reason for this practice. The peasant, looking very surprised, replied, "But, *senor*, my wife doesn't own a burro."



# Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

## "Menhaden—Uncle Sam's Top Commercial Fish," by Leonard C. Roy. *National Geographic Magazine.*

The fish caught in largest quantities in American waters is one few people have heard of—the menhaden. A member of the herring family, the menhaden is rarely seen on the dinner table in this country. Most people object to its oily taste. But it is the menhaden's oil which makes it so valuable and so useful to man.

Each year vast numbers of menhaden are taken from the waters of the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. (The annual catch has been exceeding the billion mark for several years.) Brought ashore to a processing plant, the fish are cooked until the oil is forced out and separated. The remains of the fish are crushed to a powdery meal.

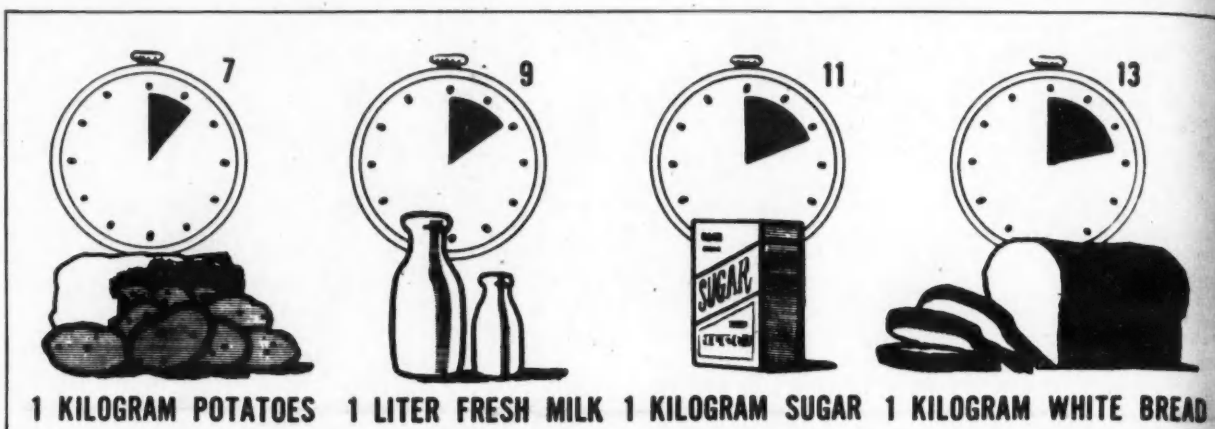
This powder is sold largely to producers of poultry and animal feed. Mixed with the other ingredients used in feed, the menhaden meal furnishes animal protein vital to the health of farm stock.

Menhaden oil has a number of commercial uses. Some steel-making companies buy it for use in tempering steel. Soap firms use it to manufacture their product. Linoleum, varnish, paint, waterproof finishes for clothing are often made by processes which employ menhaden oil.

## "BLS Booklet Helps Sell U. S. to Foreign Labor," *Business Week.*

Representatives of American labor unions at work with the European Recovery Program in Europe are often asked, "How do American workers really live?" To answer this question and to combat Communist propaganda about "exploited workers in the United States," these union officials have spoken at many meetings and rallies in Europe.

But there is a limit to the speeches these men can make, and the number of people they can reach with the spoken word. The desire to know more about our unions and workers seems, however, to be unlimited. So soon a booklet will be distributed in



A CHART from "The Gift of Freedom" shows how long an average American must work to earn various goods

Europe to tell the story of America's working men and women.

Called "The Gift of Freedom," the booklet was prepared by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the State Department. It has 150 pages, is printed on "slick" paper in easy-to-read type, and has numerous illustrations. It answers the questions often asked by people of other nations.

Among other things, the booklet tells how many workers own their homes, have cars, radios, and other goods considered in many nations as luxuries. It gives the average wages for workers in various occupations, and shows how much can be purchased with those amounts of money. "The Gift of Freedom" sketches the history of the trade union movement in this country and tells how unions operate.

Labor unions in the U. S. are paying the bills for translating the booklet into several languages and shipping it abroad for distribution. They feel that this document, based on official facts and figures, tells dramatically the story of our working people and what the "gift of freedom" has meant to them.

## "Good News from Italy," by Hal Lehrman. *Fortune.*

The good news from Italy, as *Fortune's* reporter sees it, is the progress made during the first year of the European Recovery Program. With the food, machines, raw materials, and other help received so far, the Italians

have made a startling comeback. Their farms are producing at the rate of 90% of prewar levels. Industries are turning out goods in a volume which is surprising, even if it is not so great as in the days before the war. Italian products are finding purchasers in world markets, and foreign trade is considerably above that prior to World War II.

While this record of accomplishment is a fine one, perhaps the most outstanding news from Italy is the spirit of the people. United States aid thus far and the promise of continued help until 1952 has given them a tremendous psychological boost. They seem to have the feeling that now, for the first time, they have a real opportunity to lick the problems which have plagued the nation for years—inefficient government, unemployment, too many people, wasteful industrial techniques. They seem to have determined to work hard and make the most of this opportunity.

Marshall Plan aid to Italy has included the advice and guidance of experts in many fields. They have been working with Italian officials on such matters as a budget for the nation, tax law revision, improved production methods, Italian migration to other lands, and a host of other topics. As some of the results of the studies and plans are put into effect, Italian confidence in the government mounts.

## "Editors' Blind Spot," by Harry B. Murkland. *Americas.*

The people of the other Americas resent the way in which United States newspapers report events which occur "south of the border." And, says the author who is well-acquainted with Latin America, they have a right to do so.

Most papers here give little space to our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere. When these countries do get into print, it is almost always because of a revolution or a sensational disorder. Rarely published in U. S. papers is news of Latin American progress or developments in education, medicine, art, business, or other constructive fields.

Surveys show that, as a nation, we are poorly informed on South American affairs. While our schools teach European history, literature, and language (French), few feature courses on South American subjects. Some schools do offer classes in Spanish, but not many.

Although it is not the fault of the newspapers that we know little of the other Americas, the papers are not doing what they can to close this gap

in our knowledge. They should publish more news from the South American countries, and print a wider variety of stories.

Instead of merely printing the bare facts about some development in Latin America, the press should give its readers the tools for understanding the meaning and interpreting the significance of the event. Newspapers could do this without mixing opinion in their news columns. By carrying features on the history, geography, and problems of a country in which a newsworthy event occurs, the papers could give their readers a better knowledge of the other Americas.

## "Slum Clearance at a Profit," by Edgar L. Jones and Burke Davis. *Atlantic.*

Baltimore, Maryland, has evolved a plan for cleaning up its slums—a plan that is attracting national attention. It has taken shape over a number of years, and today functions well.

First a housing code, outlining the minimum essentials for dwellings in Baltimore, was passed by the city council. Then health authorities were given the power to enforce it. A corps of sanitation inspectors surveyed the city for dwellings which did not measure up to the law. A special court was established, the first of its kind in the nation, to hear all cases pertaining to housing. Violators of the code who do not make repairs or corrections after a reasonable period of time are fined and ordered to obey the law. This court tries both the landlord who does not maintain his property and the tenant who does not practice sanitation.

Since these three steps were taken, Baltimore has seen some 5,000 outdoor toilets replaced with indoor facilities. Trash piles have been removed, and areas which might collect trash have been put to constructive uses. About 20,000 bad housing practices of various sorts have been corrected. These have reduced fire and safety threats, dampness within dwellings, and vermin.

While progress is encouraging, only 30 of an estimated 2,000 city blocks of sub-standard dwellings have been cleaned up. Those still remaining are being tackled systematically. Meanwhile, the citizens of Baltimore are still not satisfied with housing conditions within their city. They seem to feel that although the slums are being made more suitable for human habitation, they are still slums. That is why they approved last year a plan for municipal purchase of slum land, razing of the dwellings, and redeveloping these areas.



LATIN AMERICANS say we are poorly informed about life in their countries